GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:534
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WEAKER SECTIONS
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Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started a new training programme to encourage the establishment of micro and small enterprises by the weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries in the country including State of Andhra Pradesh under the above programme, State and Union Territory-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises implements training programmes through its field institutes spread all over the country by reserving 22.5 percent in Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) and Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programmes (ESDPs) for SC, ST, Women and Physically Handicapped persons, as also giving them a stipend of Rs.500/- per candidate per month during the financial year 2007-08. The Ministry has recently decided that all SC, ST trainees will not be charged any fees in any of the training programmes. Last year, these institutes trained more than 1.07 lakh persons all over the country. This year the target has been further increased to 5 lakh people, out of which more than 22.5 percent will be from amongst the weaker sections of the society from all the states, including Andhra Pradesh. In addition, the Government has also suitably modified the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme, inter alia, to enable educated unemployed youth from the weaker sections of the society to establish their enterprises.